

From: Hall, Tim (CDPH-DFDRS-FDB) [<mailto:Tim.Hall@cdph.ca.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 08, 2013 4:40 PM
To: Oppenheimer, Eric@Waterboards
Subject: Groundwater Management

Eric,

This in all likelihood will be a very long and drawn out project. Efforts in the past, to monitor domestic water well withdrawals in regions outside of defined water basins have been met with threats of bodily harm. With that in mind I would stay away from domestic wells and focus regulatory attention on the high volume water users drafting from known basins or aquifers. Regulation of the agricultural community will not be easy. Circumvention by agricultural interests, local political intervention and obstruction as recently witnessed in the Board's efforts to reign in the Central Coast agricultural community should be anticipated and plans should be made accordingly.

I would suggest as a first step in order to stabilize the game board that it be agreed that no exportation of groundwater out of its basin of origin be stipulated as a requirement. A second step should be to establish ambient, static groundwater levels along with historical levels where available. Establishment of reference levels is likely to be very contentious but is a necessary foundation that has to be established for any effective groundwater management approach.

Much of the state's groundwater recharge mechanisms are largely unknown. I would recommend that advances in tracking water origin be utilized heavily. Well driller reports of recent vintage should provide better information than was provided in the past. Has DWR agreed to provide that data?

Sincerely,

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